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Rada. A Drama of War in One Act. By Alfred Noyes. New York: Frederick A. Stokes Company. October, 1914. 31 pp. Price, 60 cents.

This little play by the author of "The Winepress" has already become known in this country through several public presentations, having been given in New York at the Christmas festival of the MacDowell Club in 1913, and presented under the auspices of the Pennsylvania Peace and Arbitration Society on several Chautauqua platforms, though it proved to be unpopular there on account of its realism. Its appearance in book form will be welcomed.

The scene of this Christmas tragedy of the Balkans is set in a doctor's cottage on Christmas Eve. Rada, whose husband has just been slain, sits weeping, while two Roumanian soldiers drink and mock her as she mourns, and Nanko, the half-witted schoolmaster, prattles the old, worn arguments for war.

A stocking hangs by the chimney. As Rada prepares food for the men, her little daughter, Subka, enters unseen. She looks to see if one of the soldiers may not be Santa Claus, then, growing uneasy, asks for her father and for the gramophone, her Christmas gift.

Nanko gets out the Christmas tree; the soldiers light the candles; one of them hangs a revolver on it and the other the ring he has taken from the dead hand of Rada's husband. Then Subka, at the schoolmaster's behest, stands on a bench and recites her Christmas piece.

The door suddenly bursts open; a troop of drunken soldiers, who have seen women within, enter. Rada pushes Subka into the room behind her, and, with the revolver she has snatched from the tree, faces the men.

> "Go! Take your manhood out of this. Or else—
> I have one bullet for the child, and five
> To share between you and myself!"

As they rush upon her she quickly closes the door, at which the men push for entrance; but they pause as they hear within one shot, followed by another.

At the bugle call they all rush off, and only Nanko remains. He calls to Rada to come, and then starts the gramophone playing, as a stream of blood trickles under the door; the hymn is "Adeste Fideles."

Eloquent in its very simplicity, truer than we like to think possible, convincing and powerful is this realistic picture of a scene similar to some which are being enacted at this very day in war-ridden Europe.

A Course in Citizenship. By Ella Lyman Cabot, Fannie Fern Andrews, Fanny E. Coe, Mabel Hill, Mary McSkimmon, with an Introduction by William Howard Taft. Houghton Mifflin Company, 1914. pp. i-xxiv + 379. Price, $1.25.

To appreciate this book it is not necessary to raise the ancient question whether virtue can or cannot be taught. We are inclined to accept the position, defended by Socrates, Spinoza, Comenius, Thomas Jefferson, the Catholic and Anglican churches, the Moral Instruction League of England, the Japanese nation, and others, that it can.

The authors of this book present a wealth of suggested material for the teachers who would illustrate convincingly for children the great basic facts of high behavior. The most superficial feature of the book is its attempt to grade its material for each of the eight grades of the public school. Some poems are included for the lower grades which ought to be placed much higher. We find such unpedagogical questions as, "Does its work cover the world?" "Does one country help to develop others?" "Does the United States sell abroad?" etc. In the chapters dealing with the peace movement unfortunately no reference is made to the American Peace Society. The fact remains, however, that we know no book better adapted for meeting the needs of the public schools for a course in citizenship than this. The plan of leading the children from thinking first in terms of home, extending their interests in the second grade to school and playground, to the neighborhood in grade three, to town and city in grade four, to the nation in grade five, to American ideals in grade six, to the United States and the world in grade seven, to the world family in grade eight, is sufficiently satisfactory, especially for children who go through all the grades. Having a special subject for particular emphasis for each month will lend definiteness to the teaching.

Every teacher will welcome this "desk-book" if she be at all interested in teaching citizenship through good will expressed in service. C.

America's Conquest of Europe. By David Starr Jordan. 70 pp. Boston: American Unitarian Association, 1913. Price, 66 cents by mail.

Two essays by Dr. Jordan make up the contents of this little volume. The first, which gives the book its title, was published simultaneously in French and English, having been written at the request of Senator Henri La Fontaine. The appeal of Dr. Jordan to America is first to conquer herself, and then to proceed to the conquest of Europe by the ideals of internationalism and democracy, which will bring about true brotherhood and peace. The second essay is an address on "World Peace and the Treaty of Ghent," which was delivered in Ghent in 1913 at a world congress of school principals.

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